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Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"
Third session
3-17 March 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Draft political declaration submitted by the Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee

We, the Governments participating in the special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the goals and objectives contained in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 as the culmination of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1976 to 1985;

2. *Reaffirm* our commitment to the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action, which are women and poverty; education and the training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child, and call for the implementation of the Agreed Conclusions and resolutions on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women since the thirty-ninth session of the Commission;

3. *Recognize* that we have primary responsibility for the full implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and all the relevant commitments for the advancement of women, and, in this connection, call for

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continued international cooperation [Australia, with addition by the Holy See and the United States of America: **including through** [Norway: **enhanced**] **development cooperation and the fulfilment of internationally agreed commitments for overall** [G-77 and China: **official**] **development assistance**] [G-77 and China insert: **including the fulfilment of internationally agreed targets for financial assistance**] [USA: **including the fulfilment of internationally agreed commitments for overall** [G-77 and China: **official**] **development assistance**] [G-77 and China: **and, in this regard, express our grave concern for the continuous decline of official development assistance and call for the immediate reversal of this decline**] [Australia, with addition by the Holy See: **including through** [Norway: **enhanced**] **development cooperation and the fulfilment of commitments** [USA: **made to official development assistance**]] [Australia, alternative 1: **including through enhanced development cooperation and by striving to achieve the fulfilment of international targets, where agreed, as soon as possible**] [Australia, alternative 2: **including by striving to achieve the internationally agreed target for official development assistance as soon as possible**] [G-77 and China: **including striving for the fulfilment of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance as soon as possible, as well as increasing the share of funding for activities designed to implement the Platform for Action**];

4. *Welcome* progress made [G-77 and China and the Holy See: **thus far**] [G-77 and China: **towards the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action**] towards gender equality, [Holy See: **including the extensive ratification of international human rights instruments**] [USA insert: **including extensive ratification** [Mexico: **and full implementation**] **of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**] [Mexico: **and other instruments of human rights law**] [Holy See: **and recognition of the equal rights and inherent human dignity of women and men and other purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**] and in this regard acknowledge the efforts at all levels of Government and of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and other international and regional organizations, and urge continued efforts for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

5. *Recognize* the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and encourage their participation in further implementation and assessment processes;

5 *bis*. *Emphasize* that men must involve themselves and take joint responsibility with women for the promotion of gender equality;

5 ter. *Reaffirm* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the process of implementation of the outcome of other major United Nations conferences [European Union insert: **and the need for integrated and coordinated follow-up**] [G-77 and China insert: **by the relevant bodies within the United Nations system**].

We, the Governments, at the beginning of the new millennium,

6. *Reaffirm* our commitment to overcoming obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and to strengthen and safeguard a national and international enabling environment, and to this end pledge to undertake further action to ensure its full and accelerated implementation, including through the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes and promoting women's full participation and empowerment and enhanced international cooperation for the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

7. *Agree* to regularly assess further implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action with a view to bringing together all parties involved in 2005 to assess progress and consider new initiatives, as appropriate, 10 years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action and 20 years after the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

8. *Pledge* to ensure the realization of societies in which both women and men work together towards a world where every individual can enjoy equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century.